

Application No. 10/766,675

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Remarks

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6 11 have been amended. The specification has been amended to add application data for the co-pending, co-assigned applications cited on page 1. Applicants note that Application No. 10/165,529 has been allowed (but has not yet issued).

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention. The claimed language "wherein each time the meta-document is processed during its entire lifetime, processing information pertaining thereto and associated metadata is stored on the meta-document" has been amended in each of independent Claims 1, 6 and 11 and is believed to be clear.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation "a computer-readable storage medium encoded with data for processing by a data processing system, said data comprising a meta-document" and is believed to be statutory. Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitation "In a data processing system, a computer-implemented method of managing a meta-document" and is believed to be statutory. Further, the practical application resulting from claim 6 is that meta-document tracks all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document during its entire lifetime and stores this information in a single location. Claim 11 has been amended to include "a data processing system" including a memory storing the meta-document and a processor for executing an application program for processing the meta-document and is believed to be statutory.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant Admitted Prior Art. Claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art in view of MacLean et al. (US Patent No. 6,505,219). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1, as amended, claims computer-readable storage medium encoded with data for processing by a data processing system, said data comprising: a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document comprising document information during its entire lifetime, comprising an object conveying

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document information, processing information, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information; wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document; and wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document.

Claim 6, as amended, claims in a data processing system, a computer-implemented method of managing a meta-document comprising: storing a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document on a computer-readable storage medium, the meta-document, wherein the meta-document comprises an object conveying document information, processing information pertaining to processing of the meta-document, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information; wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document; and wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document; transmitting the meta-document to a source; parsing the meta-document, at the source, for extracting stored processing information and metadata; and storing processing information pertaining to transmitting and parsing at the source and associated metadata on the meta-document.

Claim 11, as amended, claims a data processing system for managing document information comprising: a memory storing a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document on a computer-readable storage medium, the meta-document, wherein the meta-document comprises an object conveying document information, processing information pertaining to processing of the meta-document, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information; wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document; and wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-

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document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document; a processor for executing an application program for processing the meta-document; and a plurality of sources, each source located at a different location, wherein each time the meta-document is received by a source, processing information and its associated metadata is parsed and extracted from the meta-document at the source; and processing information pertaining to transmitting the meta-document to the source and parsing at the source and associated metadata stored on the meta-document.

Applicants' meta-document tracks all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document during its entire lifetime and stores this information in a single location; it is stored in the meta-document data structure on a computer-readable storage medium. Each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, that processing information is stored in the meta-document. Each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the associated metadata is stored in the meta-document.

With respect to Claims 1 and 6, the Examiner defines Applicant Admitted Prior Art as portions of paragraphs 0003, 0005, 0006, 0007, and 0008. The Applicant Admitted Prior Art does not teach or suggest a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document during its entire lifetime. As noted in paragraph 0005: "In fact, most of the information about what happened to the document during its whole life (e.g., who read it, reviewed it, where it was sent as an email attachment, who liked it, etc.) is lost."

With respect to independent Claim 11, nothing in MacLean overcomes the lack of teachings in the Applicant Admitted Prior Art.

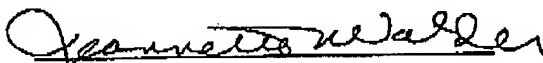
No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Consideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the

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Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,



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Xerox Corporation  
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